

The United States has many vital strategic resources but probably none as basic and important as its safe and abundant food supply. The success of California agriculture has been the practical application of scientific research into current practices, yet over the years we have seen much of this research funding shrink.

Applied, scientific research is critical for defending California agriculture from invasive pests and diseases, from foodborne illnesses, environmental degradation, and so many of the important issues encompassed in the farm bill. It also helps provide solutions for combatting greenhouse gas emissions and solving air and water quality issues. In addition, money invested in research had aided in constructing mechanized harvesting equipment for many of California's labor intensive agricultural products such as stoned fruits and perennial crops.

But these are just a few examples. Pasteurization, immunization, biotechnology applications, pest and disease eradication—the ingenuity and innovation of past researchers have allowed our nation to benefit from a food system unequaled anywhere in the world in safety, diversity and abundance.

But agriculture is about more than just food production. Well-managed agricultural lands also shelter wildlife, supply scenic open space and, and through natural biological processes help purify

America's air and water. We have a responsibility through research advancements to protect and sustain this valuable resource for future generations.

Research conducted in the late 1800's allowed researchers to discover methods of removing salt from the soil in the San Joaquin Valley. Now that valley is the most productive agriculture area in the world. Researchers from the CSU and UC systems have discovered new grape varieties and winemaking techniques which have propelled California's wine industry. Nutrition studies have helped educate consumers about the health benefits of increased consumption of many of California's fruits, dairy products, nuts and vegetables.

Funding for land grant and state universities ensure that agriculture research is used as a learning tool for advancements in the industry. Some specific past projects conducted in the CSU system include the development of fiber rich snacks, investigating ways to increase the shelf life of fruits, herbs and vegetables

and protecting California's endangered species through improved agricultural practices and wildlife management techniques.

Research at land grant and state universities helps ensure that new knowledge and practices are effectively incorporated into actual agricultural settings and provide a basis for sustainable future growth and development.



California Supports:

- Increasing funding to land grant and state universities to research improved agricultural practices, technologies and approaches, including reducing the risk of contamination of fresh produce, including leafy greens, from human, livestock and environmental sources.
- Increasing funding to the University of California Cooperative Extension to assist farmers and ranchers in implementing cost effective environmental and agricultural practices.